

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 08729 060907Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 8729

EXDIS

FOR HOLBROOKE

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: MARCOS SPEECH ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: (A) STATE 127888; (B) PARIS 16213

1. I WOULD NOT ALLOW THE ABSENCE OF A RESPONSE TO
PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO MARCOS STAND IN THE WAY
OF A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE SECRETARY FOR MORE
POSITIVE MOVEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS HERE. AS TO THE
PROTOCOLARY ASPECT, IT SEEMS NATURAL ENOUGH FOR THE
SECRETARY, AS A LEADING U.S. SPOKESMAN ON THE HUMAN
RIGHTS ISSUE, TO ADDRESS MARCOS ON THE SUBJECT. THERE
FOLLOWS A SUGGESTED TEXT FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

2. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
STULL HAS PROVIDED ME WITH THE TEXT OF YOUR MEMORIAL
DAY SPEECH ON THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE PHILIPPINES. I HAVE READ YOUR
REMARKS AND HAVE DISCUSSED THEM WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.
YOURS IS AN ELOQUENT AFFIRMATION OF COMMITMENT TO "THE
FULL RENDERING OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND HUMAN WELFARE."
I CAN ASSURE YOU A SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE TO YOUR PLEA THAT
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THE UNITED STATES REACH OUT TO UNDERSTAND THE SPECIAL
CIRCUMSTANCE THAT OBTAIN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND
CONDITION THEIR EFFORTS TOWARD THIS GOAL.

THERE ARE MANY COGENT ARGUMENTS FAVORING HUMAN RIGHTS
AS A CONDITION OF DEVELOPMENT, BUT NONE THAT IS SUSTAINABLE
FAVORING THEIR VIOLATION. THIS IS MOST PARTICULARLY TURE

OF VIOLATION OF THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON. RECENT
STEPS TAKEN BY YOU THEREFORE MUST BE ALL THE MORE GRATIFYING,
FROM YOUR PRELIMINARY ACTION IN THE CASE OF MRS. HERRERA
TO YOUR RECENTLY ANNOUNCED PLANS TO EFFECT THE RELEASE OF
DETAINEES NOT FORMALLY CHARGED WITH CRIMES. AS ASSISTANT
SECRETARY HOLBROOKE NOTED DURING HIS VISIT TO MANILA IN
APRIL, WHAT IS ESSENTIAL AT THIS POINT IS REAL MOVEMENT
TOWARD THE "FULL RENDERING" BOTH OUR COUTRIES ASPIRE TO.

SUCH MOVEMENT IS IMPORTANT IN FULFILLMENT OF PHILIPPINE
AND AMERICAN IDEALS, AND ALSO IN AN IMMEDIATE PRACTICAL
SENSE. I REFER FOR EXAMPLE TO THE RECENT ACTIONS BY THE
U.S. CONGRESS TO REDUCE THE LEVELS OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE
TO THE PHILIPPINES. THROUGH A CONCERTED EFFORT, TPC
ADMINISTRATION WAS SUCCESSFUL IN HOLDING THESE REDUCTIONS
OCTO A MINIMUM. UNDOUBTEDLY WE SHALL EXPERIENCE FURTHER
SUCH ATTEMPTS AS LONG AS SIGNIFICANT DISSATISFACTION
REMAINS CONCERNING THE STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE
PHILIPPINES. ACCORDINGLY, SUSTAINED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE
THE PHILIPPINE HUMAN RIGHTS POSTURE WILL BE IMPERATIVE TO
REALIZING THE POTENTIAL FOR GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR
TWO COUNTRIES.

PLEASE BE ASSURED, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT THE UNITED STATES
WILL WORK CLOSELY AND SYMPATHETICALLY WITH THE PHILIPPINES
TO ACHIEVE COMMON GOALS IN THIS CRITICAL AREA OF HUMAN
RIGHTS.

RESPECTFULLY, CYRUS VANCE. END TEXT.
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